



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

AUG 07 2014

Mr. Bobby Cochran
Willamette Partnership
4460 SW Macadam Avenue, #50
Portland, Oregon 97239

Re: Support for the Regional Recommendations on Water Quality Trading

Dear Mr. Cochran:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 commends and supports the efforts of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Willamette Partnership, and The Freshwater Trust to agree on a set of regional recommendations for water quality trading.

This project was funded in part by the Conservation Innovation Grant awarded to the three states and the two non-profit organizations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, with the remaining funds provided by the grant recipients. The EPA staff participated in the process and offered their perspectives on the elements that a water quality trading program needs to address to be consistent with the Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations, as well as enhance the achievement of water quality goals. We believe the regional recommendations could result in the states developing regionally consistent and robust guidance to help ensure that water quality trading programs have the quality, credibility, and transparency necessary to ensure water quality improvements are achieved.

We commend the working group composed of staff from the three states and the two non-profit organizations for their well-considered recommendations. We look forward to working with them over the next year to help test the recommended elements with pilot projects, and will continue to offer our perspective on any future revisions to the regional recommendations.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Ms. Maia Bellon, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Mr. Dick Pederson, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Curt Fransen, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality